California GARDEN

JULY-AUGUST 1994 Volume 85 No.3 $1.50

Our 85th Year

HORTICULTURAL CALENDAR

Through Jul. 4	**DEL MAR FAIR** Flower & Garden Show "Lambs and Lettuce" Via de la Valle west to Fairgrounds. 10AM–12 midnight daily. Parking $3. General Admission $7.
Jul 2–3	**THE HUNTINGTON** Cactus & Succulent Show and Sale 1151 Oxford Road, San Marino. Sat.-Sun. 10:30AM–4:30PM. 818/405-2141. Donation $5.
Jul 7	**THE HUNTINGTON** First Thursday Garden Talk and Sale 1151 Oxford Road, San Marino. "Daylilies" 2:30PM. Call 818/405-2141. Donation $5.
Jul. 10	**SAN DIEGO DAHLIA SOCIETY** Specimen Show Casa del Prado, Majorca Room, Balboa Park. Sun. 1–4PM. Free.
Jul 16–17	**SAN DIEGO ARTISTIC & LANDSCAPE ASSOCIATION** 2nd Show Casa del Prado, Marjorca Room, Balboa Park. Sat. 1–4:30PM; Sun. 10AM–4:30PM. Free.
Jul. 23–24	**SAN DIEGO COUNTY ORCHID SOCIETY** 8th Summer Show Casa del Prado, Majorca Room, Balboa Park. Sat. Noon–4:30PM; Sun. 10AM–4:30PM. Free.
Jul. 30	**QUAIL BOTANICAL GARDENS** Lecture - Propagation of California Natives 230 Quail Gardens Dr., Encinitas. Sat. 11AM–Noon. Jeanne DeHart, Lecturer. 436-3036. $2.
Aug. 6–7	**SAN DIEGO COUNTY DAHLIA SOCIETY** Show Casa del Prado, Majorca Room, Balboa Park. Sat. 2–5PM; Sun. 10AM–4:30PM. Free.
Aug. 6–7	**SOUTH COAST BOTANIC GARDEN** Bromeliad Show & Plant Sale 26300 Crenshaw Blvd., Palos Verdes Peninsula. Sat. & Sun. 10AM–4:30PM. 310/544-6815. $5.
Aug. 14	**AMERICAN IVY SOCIETY, S. D. CHAPTER** Demonstration & Tea Casa del Prado, Rm 105, Balboa Park. Ivy basket, by Kathy Walsh. 1PM. 436-0460. Free.
Aug. 14	**QUAIL BOTANICAL GARDENS** Seminar - Water Gardening 230 Quail Gardens Dr., Encinitas. Michael Stewart, lecturer. 1–4PM. 436-3036. $15/$20.
Aug. 19-Sept. 5	**CALIFORNIA STATE FAIR** 141st Floriculture Exhibit & Competition 1600 Exposition Blvd., Sacramento. Daily 10AM–10PM. 916/263-3000. $6 Admission, $3 Parking.
Aug. 20	★**SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION** Bus Tour L. A. State & County Arboretum. World Largest Cacti & Succulent Show. 232-5762. See page 122.
Aug. 20–21	**SAN DIEGO FERN SOCIETY 16th** Annual Show Casa del Prado, Majorca Room, Balboa Park. Sat. 1–5PM; Sun. 10AM–5PM. Free.
Aug. 20–21	**SOUTH COAST BOTANIC GARDEN** Dahlia Show 26300 Crenshaw Blvd., Palos Verdes Peninsula. Sat.& Sun. 9AM–4:30PM. 310/544-6815. $5.
Aug. 20–21	**LOS ANGELES STATE & COUNTY ARBORETUM** 9th Annual Inter-City Show, Sale & Seminar 301 N. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia. "Cactus & Succulent" Sat.–Sun. 9AM–4:30PM. 818/821-3222. $5.
Aug. 27–28	**SAN DIEGO TURTLE & TORTOISE SOCIETY** 20th Show Casa del Prado, Majorca Room, Balboa Park. Sat.& Sun. 10AM–5PM. Free.
Aug. 28	**SOUTH COAST BOTANIC GARDEN** 2nd Annual Begonia Show & Sale 26300 Crenshaw Blvd., Palos Verdes Peninsula. Sun. 9AM–5PM. 310/544-6815. $5.
Every Wednesday	**LOS ANGELES STATE & COUNTY ARBORETUM** Free Guided Tours 301 N. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia. Guided Walking Tours of Gardens. 11AM Call 818/821-3250.
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Deadline for submission to HORTICULTURAL CALENDAR for Sep./Oct. issue is July 15.
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Our cover picture of *Romneya coulteri*, or Matilija poppy, by A. L. Valentine was used on our covers July 1909-Feb. 1913.

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RAMBLING IDEAS ABOUT FERTILIZERS

by A. D. ROBINSON

IT MAY BE REGARDED by some as rather a malodorous subject for a ramble — about fertilizers — but certain letters have arrived and verbal queries been made, that seem to compel me to take this stroll. Moreover we have the unimpeachable evidence of Mark Train to the effect that in certain parts of Europe the status of the inhabitants is judged by the size of the pile of fertilizer at the front door.

What kind to use is the most frequent query and I unhesitatingly recommend for San Diego, the stable manure used as fresh as you like, only provided that there is moisture enough to prevent heating. Get it under the surface as soon as possible to prevent evaporation of the essences, but don't put it directly against any plant or shrub. Trenching and covering the manure in the trenches at once is an excellent summer method, particularly if the trench be run full of water before covering with earth. As to why preference is given to stable manure. This is not a country of vegetable decay. The growth of the winter and spring dries up in the summer and blows away in the fall, consequently most soils are lacking in the humus quality and this the stable manure supplies, and its bulk helps to loosen up the soil and counteract its tendency to run together and bake when irrigated. Why use it fresh? Because in this country there is no such thing as well-rotted manure. It is either leached to death or dried to a worse condition. The fine sifted stuff that is sold you for your lawn and that spreads so evenly and beautifully is a desiccated deception. Your lawn has asked for an egg and you have offered it a stone.

It is possible to cure a manure heap in good shape, but I have never seen it done, as it requires more attention than an incubator to keep it just moist enough and not too moist.

The chicken contribution is very valuable but concentrate and should be used very carefully. It is a good practice to mix it with 3 times its bulk of soil as it is collected. It has proved a valuable addition to this commodity to use slacked lime on the floor of the chicken houses, the mixture being very good, most of our soils lacking lime. (Editor's note: not for clay soil.)

The commercial fertilizers have volumes printed on their merits and they are easier to handle, less obtrusive and give good results especially with plants like carnations which absolutely refuse to live if stable manure is brought in their neighborhood. However experimental stations warn us that the mere mixing of ingredients raised their selling price 100 per cent..

In applying fertilizers it should be borne in mind that they are actually detrimental when a plant is dormant or dry. That in a leachy soil where irrigation is practiced the valuable part of a fertilizer is soon used after its application or washed out of a plant's reach. Hence three, or at least two applications in a season are indicated.

What to use for potted plants, ferns particularly. For good success with potted plants a fertilizer is necessary. Ferns respond to sulfate of ammonia very gratefully. Nitrate of soda gives a good color but a weak though rank growth, and this new preparation, Bonora, is proving acceptable. All of them should be used little and often, a teaspoon to a gallon of water is a great sufficiency. Never use any of them when a plant is dry, and always water with plain water at last twice between. In our summer, potted plants, in all but the shadiest position, will often require watering twice a day.

Ferns in growth must never be dry.

This is an age of scientific fertilizing, by bacillus and all sorts of methods. We are leaving behind the times when foulness meant richness, and carrion was eagerly sought for burial at the foot of our pet grape vine, making us sort of buzzards by proxy at the vintage. Roses were considered to be especially fond of bones and the jawbone of an ass was supposed to be a tit bit in the embrace of its fibrous roots. The writer used to be told that these roots would surround a very large bone and eat it up. He never believed this, having a theory that a plant can only use such elements as are in solution, and so stated to a gentleman, who proved to be a chemist, holding to the direct consumption theory, the result of being scientifically squelched. Nevertheless, he is not feeding bones in bulk to his roses even now. □

A. D. ROBINSON was an internationally known and respected horticulturist. He was the founder of San Diego Floral Association and the founding editor of California Garden. His private garden, Rosecroft Gardens in Point Loma, was used to experimentally grow and introduce many plants to San Diego.

(Editor's note: eighty-five years have changed the fertilizers we use. Although many gardeners still use commercially prepared and sterilized steer and chicken manure, there are many good chemical fertilizers widely used.)

Reprint (edited) from April/May 1934 California Garden

ROMNEYA COULTERI, OR MATILIJA POPPY

by KATE O. SESSIONS

THE FAMOUS CALIFORNIA SHRUB poppy was first located in Ventura county and the name Matilija was the Indian name for it. It was botanically described by Prof. Harvey, botanical professor at Trinity College, England. The genus was named for Dr. Romney Robinson and the species for Prof. Coulter — both men being noted botanically.

The first specimen plants were received in March 1877 and bloomed in July. It was established as a half-hardy shrub in Dublin and grew six to eight feet tall and the flowers were four and one-half to six inches in diameter.

It was described as a very beautiful and distinctive plant and the queen of the poppy-worts. A swan-white flower with its golden stamens formed in a large cluster. In 1886 the plant was reported to have seventy full blooms at one time and even in January blossoms were reported.

As to its culture here: it flourishes best in loose soil. In Coronado it particularly enjoys that soil and in heavy adobe, it will not live. It becomes dormant in the late fall and then can be dug, saving as much root as possible —cutting back the top to six to twelve inches. The plant increases by underground shoots and spreads rapidly and the established but smaller plants or off-shoots from the main plant are best for transplanting.

All plants in cultivation should be cut back to at least one foot from the ground every November for best results for fresh foliage and flowers. It is difficult to grow from seed, which under the most favorable conditions requires many months or a year to germinate. This plant is worthy of more extensive cultivation throughout California. □

(Editor's note: In addition to the information on page 109, it is thought that among the courses she took toward her bachelor's degree, Kate Sessions studied chemistry, botany, agriculture, and/or horticulture. She was on of the founders of the San Diego Floral Association, and in our office and library we have a large painting of Miss Sessions. Among the mementos here are some of her trophys, awards, and books.)

Matilija poppy flower photo, yes, we know it's not topside up, and Matilija poppy seedhead photo by Betty Newton

GARDENING FOR THE ARTHRITIS SUFFERER

by LESLIE BARNARD-THOMAS and ROBERT HORWITZ

I (ROBERT HORWITZ) RECENTLY ENROLLED in a course of self help for arthritis sufferers in order to see if I could learn techniques that would relieve arthritis pain in my hands and hips. The course was sponsored by the Arthritis Foundation, San Diego Chapter. With the help of the co-author, Leslie Barnard-Thomas, it became immediately evident that the physical manipulation of the elements of gardening could be easily adapted to the specific needs of those living with arthritis.

When you consider all the finger and hand manipulations that one goes through in order to use a trowel to plant a few bedding plants, it is apparent that these movements, if done the right way, could be very beneficial to the hurting joints. Sensible exercise of the joints and muscles in the arthritic area is considered to be very good. It keeps the muscles in tune, and it helps lubricate and nourish the affected joints. By coupling the pleasures of gardening with the appropriate movements of arthritic areas you are doing two good things. You are helping to reduce pain while you are distracting yourself by performing a pleasurable task that can help do away with muscle tension and mental frustration.

A principle that has become important for arthritis patients is called the two hour pain rule. It says that if you do something physical that involves the arthritic joints and the increase in pain that ensues lasts longer than two hours, you have done too much and perhaps have done the work incorrectly. However, a little discomfort after exercise is normal and should not be a deterrent to continued work in the garden.

Following is a list of gardening activities and the suggested proper way to do them in order to derive the benefits of this exercise in alleviating arthritis problem and keep up good gardening. Certain joint stress can increase the potential for injuries. With a little awareness of the correct motions you'll be able to garden correctly before you know it.

SPADING or DIGGING — The first thing to do is to loosen the knee and hip joints before applying the shovel to the dirt. Sit in a chair and raise each leg several times from the foot-on-the-ground position to horizontal. Flex you hands to loosen the joints. Now apply sensible vigor to the task of digging with a shovel by taking a half-shovel full at a time, or whatever amount is comfortable. Never strain yourself. It is best to do many motions easily rather than a few that could cause strain. If you have shoulder problems, loosen up the shoulder by raising the arms so that the upper arms are horizontal and the lower arms are vertical reaching upward. While in this position bring the arms forward so that the palms of your hands are touching in front of the face. Repeat about six times.

PRUNING — Use the previously mentioned arm/shoulder exercise along with the hand flexing to loosen up before pruning bushes, trees and vines. If the area you are pruning is low, kneel to do the pruning instead of stooping or bending over. Take a light weight stool to sit on while pruning lower branches. If you have an artificial hip or hips, do NOT bend at the hip beyond horizontal. Other artificial joints can be bent as far as you are able.

RAKING and HOEING — Again, flex the fingers for good grasp strength and do the shoulder exercises for loosening the arms and shoulders. This works well for just sweeping, too.

LIFTING — Loosen the knees and hips before attempting to lift anything weighing over five pounds. Lift using the back and legs muscles instead of the lumbar joints. This means that you kneel down with the back straight, hold the load in both hands or arms, and stand using both the back and leg muscles.

For you who find bending over too difficult, you might consider using raised beds or placing containers on shelves or tables.

These are just a few of the hints for using arthritis pain reducing methods in everyday gardening activities. There are many more ways of loosening up in preparation for garden work. Get yourself a copy of "The Arthritis Helpbook" by Loring and Fries. It is used by the Arthritis Foundation in their Arthritis Self Help Course. After looking at the book, you can devise the proper exercise you need for your particular garden and garden activity. Gardening is an enjoyable experience, and if you have arthritis, these hints will help keep it enjoyable. For more information about self-help for arthritis, call the Arthritis Foundation at (619)492-1090.□

LESLIE BARNARD-THOMAS is a young woman who has suffered from rheumatoid arthritis for many years. She has had several joint replacements and numerous operations to try to keep her mobile. She has become a specialist in arthritis self-help and was the co-instructor of the self-help class.

LAELIA ANCEPS, AN ORCHID TREASURE

by ARDELL O. MARLIN

THIS IS A VERY lovely species of epiphytic orchid that was discovered in Mexico. It was first described by Lindley more than one hundred years ago. We can truthfully say that this orchid is a very prominent handsome species and one of the most useful winter-flowering orchids that we have in our collections. It has a very graceful mode of growth. The plant itself is very attractive. It has large oval-shaped pseudobulbs that are usually 4 to 5 inches long. The pseudobulb is two-edged and broadly ribbed on the two opposite sides. The bulb is a unifoliate and the beautiful green leaf is an oblong-lanceolate that arises from the top of the bulb. The inflorescence emerges from the center of the top of the bulb. It is articulated with joints and bears a thin sheath. The flowers are presented on the end of this flower spike. The spike is usually 3 to 4 feet long, and it will have 2 to 5 flowers that are 3 to 5 inches across. The flowers will last for a month in perfection if they are kept cool and dry. They do not do well if we have a Santa Ana condition when they are in bloom. That is if you are growing them outside.

They will range in shades from a light pink rose tone to a lilac and sometimes a deeper shade of lilac. They also are found in white having a very beautiful lip of bluish lavender. The lip on the pinks and lavender shades is usually a very deep purple. The broad side lobes are marked with yellow and deep red lines. The disk has a crest of three yellow ridges. The plant usually blooms from November to January.

At this time there is much research going on to establish which of these lovely plants form separate species. Are they really different species? Maybe they are variations of the species *Laelia anceps*? Halbinger and others now suggest that this species may be a group of three or four, or more, separate species.

L. anceps have distinct distributions. The main originally known habitat occurs on the Gulf of Mexico side of Mexico. They're also found to the west in Oaxaca and Guerrero states and to the south in Guatemala and Honduras. They are usually found in the high mountainous regions growing on oak trees and clinging to cliffs and rocks. They are exposed to full sun and a good breeze, that is sometimes classified as a "wind". They are drenched by hard rains during the rainy season, from May to October.

Here's a little about the culture that we provide our plants here in Southern California. We grow outside in full sun. The plants are exposed to good air movement at all times. They are repotted when we see the start of the new roots that will provide the new pseudobulb. We like to repot every year, or at least every other year. We also grow on cork oak slabs. These plants need to be misted every day in the summer months. For our growing mix we use:

1 part medium fir bark
3 parts #3 perlite (for aeration, and the roots like to attach themselves to the rough surface)
3 parts #3 charcoal (helps filter the water and, again, the roots like to cling to it)
3 parts ⅛-¼ inch volcanic rock (weights the pot, the rock holds warmth, and the food and water collect in the crevices).

We feed a well balanced fertilizer that contains the trace elements. Use a fertilizer such as 7-7-7 or 20-20-20. We like to feed every other week. We feed a quarter of the manufacturer's suggested dosage. Start your regular feedings when the new growth is well established. There are many fertilizers available on the market. Use what works best for you.

You are presented with few problems as far as pests are concerned. Do not let the snails eat the new tender growth. Keep an eye out for mealybugs that may collect at the tip of the new bud or under the sheath on the inflorescence. You also will have to keep an eye open for the ever present aphids that seem to appear when you have new flowers. We are applying a brew that we make of bay leaves to the plants. This seems to repel the ants and aphids. At this stage of our study program we are not positive about the bay. However, I am almost certain that it does work.

Happy *Laelia anceps* growing. James Rose states that these are "the real treasure of the Sierra Madre."□

ARDELL O. MARLIN was born and raised on a homestead in South Dakota, but has lived in San Diego since 1943. She has BS and RN degrees, but says that she is not a botanist or a taxonomist; she just likes to grow orchids.

Photo of *Laelia anceps* by Ardell O. Marlin

FAR FROM THE MADDING CROWD: TECHNIQUES FOR NOISE MANAGEMENT IN THE GARDEN

by FREDRIK LILJEBLAD

WHY DO WE GARDEN? There are many possible answers, all as diverse as our various personalities. And yet a unifying, if invisible, thread runs through all our gardening endeavors: the desire to create a world of our own. A retreat. A tranquil, orderly oasis in the midst of the chaos that is the outside world. We weed and feed and pinch and prune and water and mulch to create our version of Paradise. Perhaps on a glorious afternoon, when the weather is exhibiting the perfection San Diego is famous for, we force ourselves to sit back with a glass of iced tea and successfully suppress the urge to deadhead that patch of daylilies that seems to be beckoning to us. Now, we tell ourselves, is the moment to enjoy the fruits of our labors. *Zoooooom* — a plane swoops across our patch of sky leaving earsplitting noise in its wake. "*Momeeee!*", the neighbor's not so adorable five-year-old starts to wail. *Yap-yap-yap* goes the ill-tempered and incontinent Pomeranian across the road. The peace of the moment is shattered, and short of such anti-social behavior as infanticide, what can we do? Here are some ways that you can reduce, if not eliminate, unwanted noise from your garden and your consciousness.

There is not much that can be done about planes, but street noise responds to two stratagems: masonry and running water. For really heavy, recurrent street noise, nothing can match a high, solid masonry wall. There are zoning regulations in most areas governing the height of such walls, particularly in the setback (usually within twenty-five feet back from the sidewalk). For this kind of wall to do its job, however, you need a height of four to six feet. Concrete blocks, bricks or stone (in an ascending order of expense) are all suitable. Concrete blocks no longer only come in reform school-grey, but in a variety of colors and, more importantly, textures — the so-called "broken" or "split" concrete blocks making a very attractive wall, with the added dividend of easily providing a foothold for small succulents or bromeliads.

All masonry is labor-intensive and therefore costly, but it is also long lasting and low maintenance. And it is far superior to fences for muffling traffic noise. If the cost is prohibitive, the next best choice (although considerably less effective) is a solid fence backed by evergreen shrubs. Here in California, we have the advantage of a far more diverse palette of shrubs than the extremely slow-growing and vaguely menacing conifers commonly used for this purpose in Britain and colder areas of the U.S.

One of the best noise barriers, effective even against some degree of traffic noise, is the sound of water. Whether it's a gurgling fountain, a splashing waterfall, or even a Japanese *shika-odoshi* — a bamboo tube that gradually fills with water, then tips it out with a soothing, melodic *bong* at short intervals — moving water both masks noise and contributes a needed note of serenity in the garden. While waterfalls are a major engineering project, they are definitely the most noise-defeating of water features. The sounds of waterfalls range from a melodic plash, to a thunderous roar, usually easily controlled (and altered) by a simple pump adjustment. Nevertheless, some people will inevitably find the dominant sound of a garden waterfall as irritating as a leaky faucet. There's also the expense and (usually) the relative permanence to consider. There are, however, so many kits for fountains and recirculating pumps available from garden centers and aquatic nurseries that almost no one need be without a water feature in their garden. Even a large ceramic urn or half whiskey barrel will do.

Before you rush into this particular anti-noise stratagem, remember that water lilies and lotuses dislike any water disturbance, so unless you have a large pool, plan on more resilient aquatics such as water hyacinth (*Eichornia crassipes*) or water arum (*Peltandra virginica*). As with waterfalls, the line between a soothing gurgle and an unendurably irritating *glug-glug-glug* is very subjective. You must be prepared to experiment with the water flow to find the range that covers noise without becoming a noise in itself.

A more high-tech solution, but one that can be combined with a garden water feature, is installing outdoor sound speakers and playing one of the many inexpensive white-noise tapes available. Some speakers are specifically designed for garden use and are not only weatherproof, but come in the form of surprisingly realistic-looking "rocks" which can be placed in unobtrusive corners of the garden. These speakers come in several styles, and range from relatively inexpensive to reasonable. You could always experiment first with a boombox hidden behind some shrubbery.

Caged songbirds, provided you find such sounds soothing in themselves, can be added, somewhat parenthetically, to the list of anti-noise stratagems. Many wild birds, too, provide song — just keep in mind their

(Continued on page 119.)

CALIFORNIA SYCAMORE

by NANCY NIEBOER

THE CALIFORNIA SYCAMORE is the "spotted pony of the tree community." Most people look at a tree as a whole, but some like to focus on one of its parts. If you happen to be a trunk person, investigate the California sycamore, for its beautiful bark color and graceful form give it the highest of trunk ratings. Other common names for this native tree are western sycamore, California plane tree, buttonwood, and buttonball. Its botanical name is *Platanus racemosa*. The Greek word *platanus*, that means plane tree, refers to its broad leaves. The species name, *racemosa*, describes the way its inconspicuous flowers are held on racemes or stalks. Its ancient ancestors thrived 100 million years ago when there were more species in the plane tree family and when its members were more widely dispersed over the planet than they are today.

The California sycamore is to trees what the Appaloosa is to horses. Dappled and "painted," the hides of each are alive with patterns of darks and lights. The trees' beauty comes from the way the darker outer bark peels off in patches, exposing the creamy white virgin bark beneath. Tans, browns, greens, and greys combine to make delicate etchings over the white sketchpad below. Near the base of the tree the bark is thick, brown, and furrowed.

An identifying characteristic of the Appaloosa is that its eyes show more white than other horse. Similarly, the sycamore's predominately pale, whitish bark is its finest characteristic.

The American Indian became one with the Appaloosa, the wild pony of the frontier, and these ponies still run free in herds today. Although both the trees and ponies are often domesticated, they are most impressive in their wild state. The California sycamore is at its best in its natural setting along the stream beds of the California foothills and coastal ranges and down into Mexico.

Sycamore leaves are large and maple-like, up to nine inches wide, and have three or five deep lobes. They are yellow-green, fuzzy beneath, and are held by long stalks. The hair on these leaves can cause nasal irritation. Unfortunately, these leaves are highly susceptible to several diseases. Anthracnose is the most destructive; its damage resembles frost injury. This fungal blight progresses through fall, winter and spring, killing leaves, shoots, twigs, and branches. The disease is responsible for the zigzag distinctive branches, which result from the dieback of the injured terminal twig. Cool, wet springs cause the worst outbreaks, that result in severe defoliation. Cankers form during the dormant season, and repeated fungal attacks cause dieback of large branches, loss of vigor, and attacks by borers. The arrival of hot dry summers allows regrowth and keeps the disease in check until cool, wet weather reactivates the blight again. To control the damage, a fungicide may be sprayed when buds start to break in early spring. To avoid spreading the disease, the constantly falling leaves must be raked up frequently. Among this tree's insect pests are the leaf miner and red spider mite.

In its natural state, the California sycamore is sometimes multiple-trunked and its wide, spreading branches are twisted and gnarled, often reaching out horizontally or sprawling along the ground. Its massive trunk, that can measure three to six feet in diameter, splits into secondary trunks at about eight feet high. The tree is usually 40 to 60 feet in height. It is especially attractive in winter, when its naked ivory branches proudly show off their graceful convolutions, often laden with mistletoe.

Expect no beautiful fall color from this deciduous tree, since the leaves turn a dusty brown early in the fall. This tree is sometimes called the buttonball tree because brown, bristly, one-inch seed balls dangle on slender stems, up to seven balls per string, like jewelry, throughout the winter. Unfortunately, the brown leaves may persist until spring near the coast, obscuring this spectacle. In spring the fruit pods break apart, releasing seeds that are borne on the wind by hairy parachutes.

The California sycamore is a tree for large natural areas such as parks or informal gardens where it has room to spread out. Use it on the edge of ponds or streams to mimic its natural habitat. Its shallow, spreading root system provides excellent erosion control. It also is a street tree of distinction, bringing to its neighborhood a connection with nature that is sadly missing in today's frenzied world. Deep, infrequent waterings will keep its roots from lifting the

(*Continued on page 119.*)

HANGING BASKETS

by RON SISSONS

MANY PLANTS OF DROOPING habit are suited to cultivation in hanging baskets. Pendulous stems falling over the sides of the basket display their flowers and foliage to great advantage. Hanging baskets enliven and illuminate porches, verandas and balconies, and add interest to patios and greenhouses. They are made of various materials, but most commonly of galvanized wire and redwood.

Wire baskets are lined with a thick layer of moss or pieces of fibrous turf and then filled with potting compost. Wooden baskets have crocks placed over drainage holes or where slatted, are lined with coarse peat or similar material to keep soil from falling through the cracks when making up the baskets. Pendulous plants are placed at the sides and if some plants of upright growth are used these are planted in the center.

The most effective method of watering a basket is to lower it to the ground for immersion in a vessel of water. Actually the watering of hanging baskets has always been a problem. If the basket is watered from above the water applied drains through onto the floor beneath. Lowering a basket for every watering is a tedious business.

As a matter of fact, my hanging baskets are for the most part plastic pots. Pots with a saucer attached so I can water them from the bottom. To make this operation foolproof, I have wicks going in the drainage holes. But I am careful not to get anything for a wick that will rot! I bought some jump-ropes made of Dacron, a synthetic fiber, which, cut up into suitable lengths, has been working for me ever since. As an extra precaution I always wire the saucer prongs crisscross with one another across and inside the bottom of the pot. Then I do not have to worry about the saucer falling (when it is full of water) down onto the floor beneath.

You can buy a hanging plastic bowl with some wires attached for looping into the hanging pot. The bowl takes care of the drainage when you water the pot from above.

Fifty years ago I began making hanging baskets from galvanized wire lined with sphagnum moss. They were assembled with flowering plants growing out from the sides. These true hanging baskets adorn the house front, where drainage drops painlessly to the garden below!

Hanging baskets are of three types: indoors, protected patio, and greenhouse; porch, veranda, and balcony; and outdoor. Plants with ornamental foliage, such as *Asparagus sprengeri*, wandering Jew, Boston fern and squirrel's-foot fern are suited to the greenhouse hanging baskets; flowering plants could include *Achimenes* and begonias of drooping growth, among others.

Hanging basket plants for a porch or veranda could draw on such summer-flowering plants as ivy geraniums, fuchsias, trailing lobelia, petunias and nasturtiums.

Hardy plants suitable for planting in baskets to be kept outdoors include vinca, snow-in-summer, Dalmatian bellflower, English ivy and many more.□

RON SISSON's horticultural training was in England. He was director of the Long Beach Department of Parks and Recreation before retiring to Chula Vista.

BALCONY GROWING

by ROBERT HORWITZ

IT IS AN AMAZING thing to think about when you consider how many people in our area live in apartments or condominiums. You'd also think that under these circumstances, growing a garden no matter how small would be very difficult. Well, if you take into consideration a few basic factors, the difficulty becomes less. Then with a little patience and a few abortive tries, Voilà!, it becomes easier still.

Here are some of those basic facts. One, which direction does your balcony face? If you face north you will of necessity choose shade loving plants that can withstand a bit of wind. If you face south you can choose plants that need or can take quite a bit of sun. In between lie the balconies that face east or west. And yes, there are those that face in a direction that is half way between the cardinal points. Another basic fact is the watering regime that you have to follow to assure that these plants in containers get enough water. Because there is a paucity of soil, fertilizing is much more important than if the plants are growing in the open ground. Start out with a good balanced soil that will drain well, but doesn't stay saturated. Add fertilizer often in small amounts because the drainage carries away a lot of the nutrients.

For the north, you could choose ferns, fuchsias, bromeliads, impatiens and some vegetables such as lettuce and many of the herbs. Even pansies will thrive with little or no sun. Meyer asparagus and azaleas also do well, and all of these plants will get along just fine in containers.

For south facing balconies you could grow bougainvillea, miniature palms, lilies, geraniums, petunias, bonsai trees, miniature fruit trees and all sorts of vegetables from onions to beans and tomatoes.

The other directions take a little more consideration and the key is how much sun and wind. If you can get a half day of sun you are in good shape for almost any plant that will grow in a container. Seasons play a big role in how much sun is available, too, as in winter, obviously, there is much less sunlight. The overhang of the balcony can eliminate a lot of the sun and, to a degree, beneficial rain. Wind is a factor, too, and that depends to a great degree on how high up you are. A rule of thumb is that the higher you are, the stronger the wind you can expect.

There are some considerations that you must keep in mind to protect your neighbors from your gardening activities. Watering is one: in that if you are on a second story or higher, your excess water could drip or run down on your neighbors below. If you have vine-like plants growing up a trellis, avoid having the vine attach itself to the neighbor's balcony above or to the side. If you have adjacent balconies, it would be prudent to grow plants that will not cut out any of your neighbor's view.

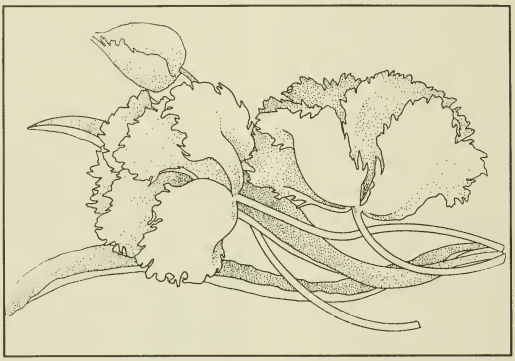
At any rate, even if you live in a situation where there is very little room for a garden, this does not preclude you from having one to liven up and beautify that arid and functional balcony.□

ROBERT HORWITZ is a retired aerospace engineer and a regular contributor to local publications.

MY MOTHER'S GARDEN — A HORTICULTURAL LEGACY

by FREDRIK LILJEBLAD

TO MANY OF US GARDENERS, the origins of our hobby can be traced right back to childhood. That was certainly true in my case. The first word I heard as an infant must surely have been the Swedish for *compost, fertilizer, acid*, or *alkaline*. My mother, although a well-known painter and sculptress by profession, was by avocation an obsessive gardener — or more accurately, garden creator. She created extensive and unique gardens everywhere she lived. Although I recall some lovely effects in the gardens she later created at her winter homes in Zürich and Paris, my earliest and most visceral garden memories are from our country home, Davidsbo Herrgård, three hours north of Stockholm. Every summer and most weekends of my childhood were spent there.



Our house stood at the top of fairly steep hill, at the foot of which lay a small meadow — each summer ablaze with cornflowers, daisies and poppies — separating the upper gardens from the lower gardens. The latter was dominated by a body of water known as "the pond," actually over an acre in diameter, where in summer my mother's wonderful lotus collection grew. The face of the hill that separated the house from the meadow was a constant thorn in my mother's side. My earliest memories are of my mother, no longer fashionably dressed for town, but wearing old gabardine jodhpurs and a worn corduroy jacket dating from my father's youth, directing stone masons in the building of yet another level of terraced flower beds, or one more flight of stone steps that would connect the two areas. By the time I was approaching my school years, she had completed the terraces, but was struggling to find the ideal plants. It was too sunny for rhododendrons, too imposing for her magnificent collection of bearded irises (which eventually found themselves with their own extensive bed on one side of the pond).

My mother's final solution was to plant each of the five levels with a different color of lilac, starting with deep purple near the top, fading to white at the base. For a number of years, this was a stunning, much-commented on display. Unfortunately, perhaps in her desire to find a quick fix to an irritating garden problem, my mother had failed to plan ahead to the day when the lilacs, on reaching mature size, would threaten to block the panoramic view. From that point on, the yearly pruning of thirty huge lilacs became the garden task from hell. The lilacs, perversely, seemed to thrive on the yearly ritual, however.

On the whole, my mother's garden projects were hugely successful and displayed her considerable originality and flair. With only the aid of our septuagenarian gardener, Franz, a dead ringer for Father Time — plus a considerable amount of locally recruited muscle — my mother created a unique garden that was a fusion of Oriental (mainly Japanese) and European gardening principles at a time when either the English country garden look, or the geometric French château garden were the only popular options.

A childhood spent in Japan, where my grandfather was with the embassy, had left its aesthetic mark on my mother. The pond, for example, was modelled on the one at Kyoto's Heian Shrine. Very austere carved stone "Japanese" lanterns designed by my mother flanked the sun terrace (the scene of many summer parties) that jutted out a few feet over the pond's clear, carp-filled waters. A simple stone bench stood in a small grove of gnarled plum trees brought back from Japan by my grandfather at considerable expense. As a child, it was a favorite place for me to sit after dark, sniffing the spicy scent of the blossoms, looking at the full moon.

Recalling an Imperial villa whose high hedges of clipped tea shrubs (*Thea sinensis*) formed a tunnel of fresh green on both sides of a stone-flagged walk, my mother determined to create her own, more spectacular version at Davidsbo. Disdaining boxwood, which in any case was too tender for Swedish winters, she created a broad, winding flagstone path lined on both sides with three-tiered raised beds of massed herbaceous peonies in

only two varieties: a deep blood red and the venerable white, 'Festiva Maxima'. My mother, with her painterly eye, sensed that the few streaks of carmine on the petals made the white of 'Festiva Maxima' whiter, and also provided a subtle, unifying link with the red peonies. In spring, the peonies burst into brilliant bloom, always just in time for my mother's birthday in May — unless, as happened one year, her flock of beautiful but noisy peacocks chose to make a meal of them.

Her control of color was evident everywhere — and its lesson was one I learned early and thoroughly. The aforementioned iris collection was a typical case: she ranged the colors in waves, white to cream to pale yellow to peach to pale orange; the palest sky blue to delft, wedgewood, royal, navy and "black." They grew in a bed edged with old cobblestones which took up an entire islet in the stream that fed the pond. Every August we would float crayfish traps from that islet to catch those highly prized delicacies. My mother was also one of the first gardeners in Sweden to import the new hybrid daylilies that were just starting to appear at that time, displacing the old orange and yellow varieties. She favored peach, dusky pink and melon-colored ones, often double or blotched with maroon or yellow in their throats. These found their way into their own bed in front of a stand of weeping birches just west of the pond and were dubbed "Birgit's Folly" by my black-thumbed father.

Standard wisterias, their tops dripping with blue-violet blossoms in late May, flanked the entrance to the sculpture garden, a white-graveled, walled courtyard where many of my mother's sculptures were displayed on stone pedestals. At the center was a pool with beautiful, hardy water lilies such as 'Gonnere', where an early work, "Leda and the Swan," served as a fountain. As a child (and even as an adult), I had a fascination with water that led to an ongoing battle of wills with my mother. I would keep turning the fountain on high, producing a dramatic splash, and my mother would turn it down to a modest trickle so that the water lilies wouldn't be disturbed. Later efforts to create a waterfall by burying a hose and angling the nozzle at the top of my mother's rock garden met with stern rebukes, particularly since I'd washed away several choice alpines. It did lead, however, to my being given my own patch of garden, where my mother acted as patient advisor. I'll never forget the thrill of seeing the first tulips ('Blue Parrot') I'd planted come up the following spring.

One thing I had trouble accepting as a small child was the death of the garden every autumn. Why couldn't the plants just keep growing and blooming? My mother took this opportunity to explain that plants, like people, have a youth, a middle age, an old age, and finally a death. Some plants merely went to sleep for the winter, others would not return, but their children would. It was a good way to introduce a child to some of the facts of life. Perhaps my desire to garden in ever milder climates, and now finally in frost-free San Diego, is a subtle rejection of the inevitability of that autumnal shutting down of so much beauty.

Here I grow things outdoors that my mother had to coddle in her greenhouses: orchids, camellias, gardenias. Most of the plants, and even a few of the gardening techniques she used, are not suited to the San Diego climate. An allée of weeping birches, for example, would have to be transformed into one of weeping bottlebrushes here. But the color and design principles, the love of Nature and the basic understanding of plants' needs — all of which I learned through watching my mother patiently and tirelessly paint her "living canvases" — are a cherished legacy and responsibility, gifts I'll carry with me to the end of my days.□

FREDRIK LILJEBLAD has been a professional writer for over twenty years. He is the author of numerous textbooks on language learning and cookery, as well as a producer of educational videos. He has gardened in climates as diverse as Sweden, England, Thailand, and Japan.

Drawing on page 107 is a parrot tulip.

Birgit af Wrangel Liljeblad

Corrections:
In the March/April
1994 issue, page 54, author
Ethan Rotman's name was misspelled
at the top of his article,
"Wildflowers and Wildlife Abound at Blue Sky Reserve."
In the May/June 1994 issue, page 73,
photo of Disco Belle Hybrid hibiscus
was taken by Barbara S. Jones;
page 79, photo of *Vitex agnus-castus*
was taken by Betty Newton.

THE DISAPPEARING OF KATE O. SESSIONS

by JANE FIELD ALEXANDER

WE STARTED OUT, ONE winter's day, on a search for memorials to Kate Olivia Sessions, who was probably the most influential woman in San Diego's history. Miss Sessions came from Oakland to San Diego in the early 1880's to teach at Russ School, having obtained the position through an acquaintance at the University of California, at Berkeley, from which they were both graduated. Very soon, however, Kate became involved in her true vocation: horticulture.

Beginning as a partner in a florist business, she soon had a shop of her own and then the first of several nurseries. The last of her plant businesses, that she operated until her death, was in Pacific Beach.

Along the way, Kate Sessions became San Diego City Gardener (without pay), Supervisor of Agriculture and Landscaping for the City Schools, unpaid consultant to farmers all over the County on what plants might do best in their areas, landscaper of La Jolla's Valencia Hotel, and landscaping advisor to Ed Fletcher for his new developments in Lemon Grove, La Mesa, and Grossmont.

In all her capacities, Miss Sessions constantly learned about and imported hundreds of kinds of plants from all over the world. It was she who introduced jacaranda trees, many species of hibiscus, and the flamboyant *Mesembryanthemum* (ice plants) that enthrall visitors to San Diego.

In 1939, Kate was the first woman to receive the prestigious Frank N. Meyer Medal for distinguished service in flower and plant introduction. This honor is awarded at intervals by the American Genetic Association of Washington, D.C.

Because she worked to convert 1400 acres of what was originally "City Park" and personally planted, watered, and cultivated several hundred trees annually, Kate Sessions became known as the "Mother of Balboa Park."

During the last years of her life and occasionally after her death, the "Mother of Balboa Park" was honored at public ceremonies by speeches and memorials. As detailed in the biography, *Kate Sessions, Pioneer Horticulturist,* by Elizabeth C. MacPhail (San Diego Historical Society, 1976), those memorials are what we set out to find.

In anticipation of Kate O. Sessions Day, September 24, 1935, at the San Diego Exposition in Balboa Park, a Sessions portrait was commissioned by the Pacific Beach Chamber of Commerce. The artist was Mary Belle Williams.

The portrait was duly presented at the ceremony and then, for some reason, went immediately into storage. Years later it was finally hung in the Pacific Beach Public Library.

In 1939, the La Jolla Garden Club planted a New Zealand Christmas tree in La Jolla's Ellen Browning Scripps Park. The accompanying plaque read:

THIS TREE PLANTED BY LA JOLLA GARDEN CLUB
TO HONOR KATE O. SESSIONS
ON HER 82nd BIRTHDAY, NOV. 8, 1939

In 1941, on the east side of what was then the Floral Association Building and is now the Hall of Nations in Balboa Park, the San Diego Floral Association, of which Kate had been a 1906 founding member, planted an incense cedar tree. Beneath it, on a "sea stone" or "boulder" (depending on who was recording the event) they placed a bronze plaque that read:

IN MEMORIAM
KATE O. SESSIONS
HORTICULTURIST
1857-1940
SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION

Incense cedar at Hall of Nations

On January 4, 1956, the Kate O. Sessions Elementary School at 2150 Beryl Street, Pacific Beach, opened its doors to 499 pupils.

On November 8, 1957, the Kate O. Sessions Memorial Park on a hill near Lamont Street and Soledad Road was dedicated — finally! After years of urging by Kate, the city, in 1933, had set aside 79.1 acres for the public. Twenty-four years later, after a concerted letter writing campaign by members of Pacific Beach's civic minded organizations, the Park was at last official.

In 1961, beneath a huge tipuana tree planted in 1920 by Kate next to the office of her nursery at Pico and Garnet, the California State Park Commission, in cooperation with the Pacific Beach Women's Club, dedicated California Historical Landmark number 764. The marker was a boulder wearing a large plaque that said:

> THIS PLAQUE COMMEMORATES THE LIFE AND INFLUENCE OF A WOMAN WHO ENVISIONED SAN DIEGO BEAUTIFUL. ON THIS SITE SHE OPERATED A NURSERY AND GAINED WORLD RENOWN AS A HORTICULTURIST. SHE WAS THE FIRST WOMAN TO RECEIVE THE INTERNATIONAL MEYER MEDAL IN GENETICS.

What are the circumstances of these remembrances today?

The Meyer medal has been moved from the San Diego High School to the San Diego Historical Society/Museum. It is not on display but may be viewed upon request.

The helpful librarians at Pacific Beach Public Library directed my call about the Williams portrait of Kate to the Main Library. A voice there reported that the portrait was being renovated, after which it would be rehung in the Library's California Room.

The New Zealand Christmas tree in popular Scripps Park stands straight and tall, its small, on-the-ground plaque still very readable. The Kate O. Sessions School is going strong with 428 students, grades K through Five. The Kate O. Sessions Memorial Park sports a fine big sign saying that at its entrance. It is wonderfully groomed and green, much enjoyed by its visitors, and overlooks some of the most thrilling views in the County.

The gift from the San Diego Floral Association? An incense cedar *does* stand just east of the Hall of Nations. However, it is only about 25 feet tall, not 100 or more as it should be if it is the tree planted 43 years ago, and although we looked in all directions on two occasions, we could find neither marker nor plaque.

The tipuana tree at Pico and Garnet is enormous, very tall, very wide. Near its trunk does indeed stand a boulder, the size and shape of that in photographs taken at the 1961 dedication. There is no corresponding bronze plaque, only a large, shallow, scooped-out place on the stone where the plaque had rested.

But the boulder *does* wear a *small* plaque, maybe five by seven inches, on its upper right shoulder. Its words are an anonymous lament:

> I THOUGHT OF MAKING A MEMORIAL TO THE MEMORIAL THAT USED TO BE HERE, SO I SET OUT TO FIND THE DATE OF THE INAUGURATION OF THE FORMER MEMORIAL SO I COULD PUT IT ON THE PLAQUE I WOULD MAKE. BUT THROUGH ALL MY INQUIRIES TO VARIOUS SEEMINGLY APPROPRIATE PUBLIC OFFICES NOBODY COULD TELL ME ANYTHING ABOUT IT.
>
> THAT MADE ME THINK THAT COMPUTERS MIGHT BE BETTER FOR MEMORY THAN BRONZE PLAQUES. BUT ONLY AS LONG AS PEOPLE CAN REMEMBER HOW TO MAKE THEM WORK.
>
> I WONDER IF THIS PLAQUE WILL OUTLIVE THE COMPUTER AGE.

So the name of Kate Sessions lives in Pacific Beach only at the school and park named for her. As for Balboa Park, which she set well on its way to becoming one of the greatest botanical treasures of the world, her persona seems to have vanished. As far as we could tell, from inquiry and research, there is no space, no garden, no building called "Sessions."

A statue of Kate Olivia Sessions, life-size at the very least, belongs in Balboa Park. Kate should be where San Diegans, as well as the visiting world, can be reminded every day of her great efforts and innovations. It was she, more than any other person, or group, or institution, who changed this once sagebrush covered desert into one of the most beautiful areas of the earth.

(Editor's note: On a recent return visit to the tipuana tree, it was found that a duplicate of the original plaque had been installed in 1994 by the Rotary Club of Mission Beach.)□

JANE FIELD ALEXANDER is a host at Silverwood, president of Buena Vista Audubon Society and past president of AAUW. She is a former teacher of English. Photographs by Jane and L. Allen Alexander.

Tipuana tree at Pico and Garnet

Reprint (edited) from the July 1909 California Garden

THE JULY FLOWER GARDEN
by KATE O. SESSIONS

The July garden demands considerable work — and principally watering. The flowers and grass rejoice in a good sprinkling late in the afternoon and evening, and during the warmer weather it is much more beneficial — but do not withold water because it is hot and sunny. Irrigate rather than sprinkle — and be very generous. Much mulching helps out the hard work of constant cultivating at this time, and is very beneficial to the plants.

July is just the month for bougainvillea planting or transplanting. Large plants can be moved with bare roots, if handled carefully, and not too severely pruned back — also the winter flowering begonias. The charming watsonias should be transplanted at this time, and your oxalis and freesia bulbs dug, ready for resetting (if you wish to do so) in August.

One of the chief needs is the pinching back of the central shoot of all young carnation plants. They should be the size of a saucer, at least, before they are allowed to bloom. Asters are growing fast now, and must be generously cultivated and can be sprayed until the flower buds begin to show color, and after that irrigated.

The chrysanthemums need their last pinching back, if large and busy plants are desired, and judiciously thinned, if one of three stems are to remain. From now on they must have constant and generous care — plenty of water and mulching and even fertilizer. Stakes in abundance must be made ready and plans for shading the best blooms thought out.

In the winter we certainly enjoy all and any flowers, and many of the common spring annuals may be made to bloom from December on, if planted during the next thirty to fifty days — such as seed of corn flower, scarlet flax, California poppy, bellis or daisy — for the winter borders, cosmos, phlox, centaureas, stock, calendulas, marigolds, and mignonette. The latter should be planted in succession, three weeks apart, and not too much at a time — but whoever had too much mignonette? Besides if it is like a weed over the garden, it is most welcome and effective, and seeds scattered in the shade of shrubs or trees, or even under rose bushes, will often grow better than in the open.

Establishing a bed of seeds at this time is constant care, and results are often not generous, but it pays. Mignonette, in particular, likes plenty of water to germinate well; and all the seeds need shading with brush or a light mulch of straw.

Any evergreen trees or shrubs that are needed should be hurried into the ground, and all palm planting should be done at once. It is a very excellent plan to look up a matured specimen of the palm you wish to plant, measure it and observe it, and plant accordingly. Lots of blunders in planting would thus be avoided — in fact, it applies to all plants, but trees and palms in particular. One must consider their size at ten to fifteen years at least — if not fifty years.□

MIGNONETTE

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
WATER GARDEN SOCIETY MEETINGS
Sundays at 1:00 P. M., July 17th and August 21st
Refreshments and Water Gardens to View
Call for location, (619)582-5408,
(619)263-9965 or in LA area (714)497-4022

Now is the Time . . .

A CULTURAL CALENDAR OF CARE

AFRICAN VIOLETS
by Helen LaGamma

NOW IS THE TIME

TO CHECK that plants are not crowded.

TO KEEP violets well groomed.

TO PLACE pans of wet pebbles among plants to increase humidity.

TO USE a fan to circulate the air to prevent mildew.

TO USE cool light tubes if violets are under lights. If using natural lighting, place plants farther away from source.

BEGONIAS
by Margaret Lee

NOW IS THE TIME

TO REPOT plants if needed — step up to next size container.

TO MAKE cuttings when trimming or pruning.

TO GROOM and inspect plants throughout growing season.

TO CHECK for mildew — spray at once for control.

TO CHECK for snails, slugs, and fungus.

TO POT rooted cuttings and leaves.

TO CONTINUE feeding.

TO REMOVE old flowers from tuberous type by snapping off the blossoms not the stems.

TO FEED tuberous plants when flower buds appear. Feed one tablespoon High-Bloom and one tablespoon of fish emulsion to one gallon of water.

BONSAI
by Dr. Herbert Markowitz

NOW IS THE TIME

TO WATER, water, water — but not over water. During the hot months it is best to water early in the day. Some bonsai may need two or three waterings on hot, dry days.

TO TURN some trees with regard to sun exposure.

TO PROTECT some plants by moving into a shaded area out of direct sun.

TO CHECK for insects and pests — spray with a diluted spray. (Be careful with elm trees that usually do not need spraying.)

TO MIST or spray foliage of certain bonsai in the evening or early morning.

TO WAIT until September or October to transplant bonsai.

TO REMOVE excess blossoms from trees to save their strength for next year. Defoliate some of the deciduous varieties in July — not later.

BROMELIADS
by Mary Siemers

NOW IS THE TIME

TO PROTECT plants from burning during the hot weather by placing them under lath, shadecloth, clear fiberglass, or trees.

TO INCREASE the frequency of water according to the temperature, but do not allow the soil to become soggy.

TO CONTINUE to fertilize once a month during summer — using water soluble, high acid fertilizer. Use one-half of strength recommended on label.

TO REMEMBER to water plants one day before fertilizing.

TO CUT off shoots (pups) to make new plants while weather is warm. Cut when they are ⅓ or ½ the size of the mother plant.

TO ALWAYS keep plants clean by cutting spent blooms and dead leaves.

CACTI & SUCCULENTS
by Joseph Betzler

NOW IS THE TIME

TO WATCH plants during hot weather. If they dry out too much they can shrivel and burn in the sun. Protect delicate specimens from the sun with screen.

TO WATER plants carefully. Some like to dry between waterings, others can take it wetter. Be careful with the plants that are dormant.

TO FERTILIZE growing plants but do not overfeed. A good rule of thumb is ½ strength every other watering.

TO WATCH plants for pests — especially snails. Treat immediately but be careful with insecticides.

TO CHECK for plants that need repotting and do so.

TO ENJOY your collection — take a little time to look at your plants.

CAMELLIAS

by E. C. Snooks

NOW IS THE TIME

TO KEEP watering on a regular basis. Roots must be kept damp, but not wet.

TO MULCH with redwood compost or pine straw or any other available material. Keep the roots cool.

TO APPLY iron for good foliage and bloom color.

TO APPLY second of three fertilizations with cottonseed meal or other acidic fertilizer. Never fertilize a dry plant and do water well after applying fertilizer.

TO CHECK for insects and mites — the latter are especially prone to attack during hot, dry periods. Apply Cygon or miticide as needed.

TO PRUNE unwanted new growth before it hardens. The center of the plant must be kept open for air circulation.

TO START disbudding as soon as blooms can be recognized. These buds are round while growth buds are pointed.

DAHLIAS

by Abe Janzen

NOW IS THE TIME

TO KEEP old blossoms cut back to first of leaves from the main stalk to prolong blooming.

TO DISBUD to encourage better blooms.

TO TIE canes to prevent plants breaking — use loop for each cane.

TO CONTINUE regular watering program.

TO SPRAY for insects and mildew; control slugs and snails.

TO FEED with a 5-10-10 fertilizer. Use potash alone to help promote root growth.

TO CUT blossoms in late afternoon or early morning and place immediately in water.

EPIPHYLLUMS

by San Diego Epiphyllum Society

NOW IS THE TIME

TO WATCH moisture — spray or mist is beneficial during hot dry weather. Spray during evening hours or early morning.

TO REPOT plants that are rootbound.

TO TAKE new cuttings.

TO KEEP plants out of full summer sun; they need filtered sunlight and free air movement.

TO REMOVE spent blooms and unwanted apples to conserve the plant's vitality.

TO PLANT new cuttings during the warm weather to allow new growth to become established during the growing season.

TO WATER hybrids during the hot summer months — spray occasionally or mist. Do not allow soil to completely dry out.

TO WATCH for pests. Spray or drench plants with Cygon to control.

TO FERTILIZE for new growth. Use 10-10-15 strength at this time.

FERNS

by Ray Sodomka

NOW IS THE TIME

TO SPRAY for aphids and scale; keep snails, pillbugs, and slugs under control.

TO FERTILIZE plants regularly with a high nitrogen fertilizer. They are in their growing period.

TO WATER and maintain humidity by keeping the surrounding areas damp.

TO TRIM dead fronds.

TO PLANT fern spores.

TO PROTECT from the hot sun.

FUCHSIAS

by San Diego Fuchsia & Shade Plant Society

NOW IS THE TIME

TO SPRAY to control insects. Orthene will control most pests: aphids, leafhoppers, caterpillars, and leaf miners, thrips, whitefly. Plants may be sprayed or drenched with Cygon-2E, malathion, Diazinon — use manufacturers' instructions.

TO SNIP off runners for shape and new growth.

TO PRUNE lightly to encourage more fall blooms.

TO KEEP foliage misted. Spray only in the shade or early evening.

TO NOT overwater but keep damp, not wet.

TO FERTILIZE regularly with high phosphorus for buds and bloom.

TO REMOVE spent blooms and seed pods to encourage more and larger blooms.

GERANIUMS (PELARGONIUMS)

by Carol Roller

NOW IS THE TIME

TO WATER thoroughly when plants become relatively dry. Each watering should moisten the entire soil ball. Excess water should drain away. Keep foliage as dry as possible.

TO CONTINUE feeding a soluble balanced fertilizer. Use at less than full strength, but apply as often as needed to keep plants from developing nutritional deficiencies. Long term pellets may be used instead.

TO CONTINUE pest control and disease prevention using products according to the manufacturers' directions.

TO GROOM plants by removing discolored leaves and faded flowers. The old bloom stalks on regals, scenteds and their hybrids should be cut away with a sharp blade.

TO TAKE cuttings from zonals and ivy-leaf types, if desired. Each cutting should have a healthy growing tip. Trim and insert into a moistened, sterile medium.

TO PROTECT cuttings and tender plants from the sun if temperatures are high; move to a sheltered spot or create overhead shade. Keep summer dormant plants dry and away from excessive heat.

TO CONTINUE to rotate pots on a regular basis in order to keep plants well shaped.

IRIS
by Iris Society

NOW IS THE TIME

TO SPADE and work humus into the soil to revitalize before planting rhizomes.

TO FEED plants left in the ground with a high nitrogen fertilizer — this one time only.

TO DIVIDE and replant tall bearded iris, taking only the new rhizomes attached to the outer edges of the mother clump. Dust ends of cut rhizomes with soil sulfur.

TO KEEP iris beds clean and free of old fans and weeds.

TO WATCH for aphids; use a light insecticide or a systemic.

TO CUT off spuria iris foliage, but do not dig until September.

NATIVE PLANTS
by Jeanine De Hart

NOW IS THE TIME

TO PLAN for fall planting.

TO CHECK to see that the natives you wish to plant will be available. If you let a native plant nursery know your wishes ahead of time, they may be able to grow them for you.

TO RESIST the urge to over water the natives. Many are drought deciduous or semi dormant in the heat of the summer. Others have various mechanisms for dealing with summer drought.

TO WATCH for hot weather pests, such as spider mites. Encourage lacewings and ladybugs by not spraying. You may have to control ants in order that the beneficials can do their job. Ants farm the *Homoptera* pests for the honey dew they excrete and protect them from the predators.

TO ENJOY the blooms of Matilija poppy and give it a periodic deep soaking. Once every ten days isn't too much if your drainage is excellent. Otherwise every three weeks will extend the bloom period.

ORCHIDS
by Charles Fouquette

NOW IS THE TIME

TO KEEP an eye out for infestations of scale and spider mite.

TO USE the proper pesticide and keep in mind that at this time of year with low humidity and warm weather, there are continuous hatches of insects.

TO CHECK all potting mixes for good drainage. We do not want rotting potting mixes.

TO MIST and spray on hot, dry days.

TO CHECK new seedlings and community pots. Do not let them dry out or get sunburned. Dry air caused by winds from the interior will desiccate small plants.

TO PLANT any keikis (offshoots) from *Dendrobioums, Phalaenopsis, Vandas, Ascocendas,* etc., when roots are about two inches long.

TO CHECK the root tips of growing *Phalaenopsis* and other vandaceous plants (air roots). If the tip is green and elongated, the water and humidity are about right. If the tips are white, that indicates more water is needed or more humitity is required. This often applies to other genera also.

TO HAVE most monopodial orchids dry by nightfall, so water will not sit in the leaf axil.

ROSES
by Marianne Truby

NOW IS THE TIME

TO WATER at least twice a week. To fill each basin with water at least twice each watering.

TO WASH off foliage in early morning frequently.

TO REMOVE spent blooms regularly.

TO PRUNE lightly in August to encourage good blooms into late November.

TO FEED generously in August to promote new growth.

TO SPRAY only in morning after watering day before. Good roses can be grown and maintained with food and water.

TO EVALUATE your bushes for possible replacement in the fall.

GREEN THUMB

NOW IS THE TIME

TO PLANT and divide Shasta daisies.

TO PINCH back chrysanthemums once again.

TO PLANT for fall colors — calendulas, stock, cornflowers, snapdragons, zinnias.

TO MOVE belladonna lilies after they have bloomed.
TO FEED bird of paradise with cottonseed meal. Soil sulfur may be applied to base of plants — need excellent drainage and acid soil.
TO WATCH for and control pests and diseases — mildew, spider mites, thrips, whitefly. Blast with water or use chemical sprays or drenches.
TO PREPARE the ground in preparation for fall seeding of all crops — vegetables as well as flowers.

FRUIT TREES AND VINES

Vincent Lazaneo, Hort. Advisor, UC Coop Extension
NOW IS THE TIME

TO MONITOR soil moisture within the root zone and irrigate when soil begins to dry. Periodically apply enough water to leach salts below plant roots (3-4 feet deep).
TO SUPPORT limbs which have a heavy fruit load to prevent breakage.
TO BEGIN harvesting fruit as soon as it is ripe.
TO REMOVE fruit which is damaged or on the ground to discourage green fruit beetles and other insect scavengers.
TO PRUNE out shoots killed by fire blight on pear, apple, quince, and loquat. Make cuts at least 12 inches below (if possible) infected tissue and disinfect pruning shears between cuts.
TO KEEP ants off of trees and periodically wash foliage with a forceful spray of water to promote biological control of spider mites, aphids, whiteflies, scale, and other insects.
TO INSPECT new leaves for signs of zinc and iron deficiency (yellowing between veins). Apply micronutrient spray if needed.
TO PRUNE out blackberry and raspberry canes which have borne fruit.

VEGETABLES

Vincent Lazaneo, Hort. Advisor, UC Coop Extension
NOW IS THE TIME

TO MAKE last planting of warm-season vegetables (tomatoes, peppers, eggplant, corn, beans, summer squash) in July for fall harvest.
TO PLANT seed of cole crops (cabbage, broccoli, cauliflower) in August for winter harvest.
TO COVER seed with floating row cover to protect young plants from insect pests.
TO WITHHOLD water from rhubarb and artichoke and allow plants to go dormant until fall.
TO CONTROL corn earworm, apply Carbaryl (Sevin) or BT when silk first emerges, then every three days until silk turns brown.

Reprint (edited) from August 1909 California Garden

THE AUGUST FLOWER GARDEN
by KATE O. SESSIONS

Have you watered faithfully during July? Then keep right on during August — less on cloudy days, of course.

When you water the shrubs, trees, or roses at intervals you should avoid the mistake of digging a deep circular trench, or basin, around the plant and filling it with water. This trench-making means that the young roots of the plants are generally severely mutilated. It is a most pernicious practice. It is much better to form a basin by scraping soil from a distance and making a ring or dam above the surface and using the basin thus formed to hold the water — twice filled should be sufficient. The second day after watering rake away the extra soil, cultivate the soil not too deeply, unless the tree or shrub is large and well established.

A permanent basin 2 to 3 inches deep and the surface mulched with grass clippings or sawdust is not to be misunderstood with the deep trench that destroys, or deep cultivating with the hoe that cuts off good and new roots. The potato fork, a sort of hoe made from a pitchfork or spading fork, is the best cultivating tool.

The watsonia and freesia bulbs must be set this month for early results. If you did not get in the seed of good annuals for the winter in July there is still time to plant — but do so at once.

Chrysanthemums must be staked and the young shoots forming in the axil of the leaves must be thoroughly cut out, or the plants will have too many branches and too many buds, and then too many blooms to be prize winners. Quality and not quantity is desirable in mums.

If you have any of the clinging vines upon your house or fences, now is the time to direct their growth. The ampelopsis (ed. note: *Parthenocissus*) vines — Boston ivy and Virginia creeper — prefer the north and shady sides and are deciduous in the winter for two months. The *Ficus repens* is evergreen and will flourish on the south side as well as on the other exposures.

Bignonia tweediana is an evergreen and loves to climb high. It should be pruned back each March for three years. Then it becomes a spreading and strong clinging vine. This *Bignonia* is excellent for trimming high chimneys, roofs and overhanging eaves. It blooms beautifully during May, with clear yellow flowers, two inches across.

The English ivy is the least desirable of clinging vines, because with age the stems become bare and very ugly. Severe and frequent pruning to the ground keeps the growth new and fresh and attractive. □

FERNING IN SAN DIEGO IN SUMMER

by BOB HALLEY

THE CALENDAR SAYS THAT summer starts on the 21st of June, but we all know that summer in San Diego probably won't start for another month. When it does come, it will last well into October. This is the time to admire and enjoy the results of our work. The ferns should be at their best and require very little labor to get them through the summer.

The two big summer worries are water and pests, but first let's discuss a major "don't" for the summer season. This is *not* the time to move or transplant ferns. Our dry summer heat puts them under stress no matter what we do, and this is simply not the time to be exposing and disturbing roots and adding further stress to the plant. If you have ferns that are nearing the capacity of their container it is best to get them moved up into a larger home before the end of June.

When I say "water" I am including humidity, which is the major summer problem for ferns in San Diego. We all know the answer to the watering problem. Keep the plants damp but not soaking wet. If you have an automatic watering system, or water by hand on a regular schedule, remember to keep like-size containers together so that they get about the same amount of water. A well-watered large pot or tub may be perfectly happy for up to a week in all but the driest weather, while a small pot, 6″ or less, will need more water in a couple of days. The only thing to do is to keep checking and adjusting to keep all the plants in good condition. Try to water thoroughly and then let the plants dry out, rather than just keeping the top of the soil damp. Think of yourself as a rainstorm since we don't have any in the summer.

Trying to keep the plants happy when the Santa Ana comes with its relative humidity reading of fifteen percent or less is a real challenge. If you are growing your ferns under low shrubs or trees you are creating a little microclimate, which helps to retain moisture and keep a higher humidity, but even here you will need to help out. First, keep an absorbent ground layer around your plants. I use decorative bark, small size. Second, devote one station of your watering system (even if it is you) to wetting down the area around the ferns several times a day. I have a set of misters that do this three times a day, and I wish the system would allow more. Include the plants themselves in this wetting down process, and don't worry about ferns that "don't like to get wet" as long as they will dry before evening.

You may have some exotic pests to deal with, but my summer problems are usually thrips, mealybugs, thrips, scale, thrips, and perhaps a few left over aphids that are much more troublesome in spring than in summer. Fortunately, the treatment is the same for all of these pests. The first choice is to treat with dimethoate (Cygon) as a drench. You can use a stronger solution (about half-strength) as a drench than you can as a spray, and since it is a systemic poison, you want to get it directly to the roots. It will take a few days to become effective and will remain effective for about three weeks. Regular treatment of susceptible plants by this method will pretty well take care of your pest problems. Remember, Cygon is a poison that is harmful to animals and humans so you must be sure not to use it around edible plants. If you find any of the pests listed above appearing despite this treatment then the next step is to augment it by spraying with carbaryl (Sevin). This acts on contact and is effective immediately but it has little lasting power. Since it must be applied directly to the infected parts you should try to keep it as weak as you can and still do the job. While Sevin is toxic to humans and pets in its liquid form it quickly dissipates after application and can be used on most vegetables so it is a safer but more inconvenient method of treatment.

One last thing, keep on fertilizing as long as your plants are growing. Most of the big growth was in the spring but they still need food through the summer. Some of them quit growing early in the fall so when the growth slows down, cut down on the food. Of course, if you are using long term slow release fertilizer you don't have to worry about these things. □

BOB HALLEY is a retired physicist and past president of the Fern Society. He is a native San Diegan.

Reprinted by permission from "Fern World", 1993 issues.

Adiantum capillus-veneris southern maidenhair fern

CONTAINER PLANT GUIDELINES

by KOBY W. HALL

WHAT BALCONY, ROOM OR PATIO would not be graced by placing harmonious plants in it? Of course, you know that plants give us oxygen and actually absorb toxic gasses from the environment, inside the house and out. Plants can even absorb the toxins generated by those seemingly innocent silk impostors. When a silk plant gets old, faded, and dusty they look absolutely ghastly, anyway. So toss 'em!

MAINTENANCE

This really should be the first consideration. Are you willing to sustain or have someone else take care of the plants? Far too many plants have withered from lack of care. Professional interior/exterior plant service can be invaluable.

Most interior plants should be checked weekly, but they may not always need to be watered weekly. Some larger pots of plants and succulent types may go two weeks or more before needing water. Still, it is good to check weekly. Chose one day of the week to inspect plants — make it a habit. The best way to check for watering needs is the old "finger in the soil" test. (Put a finger down in the soil about two inches. The surface may be dry but the deeper soil can be wet.) Do this until you get used to a routine. Water the soil just enough, till only a little comes out of the bottom. Generally, it is better to water thoroughly less often, than to sprinkle too frequently. Your leafy companions and you will get used to a schedule for watering (a somewhat regular rhythm for water is needed). Try to notice it. A common overwatering symptom for house plants is a brown tip with a yellow band at the end of the leaf. Try withholding water until the yellow band turns brown.

If a plant needs more than weekly care, particularly delicate or interior types, consider potting up to a larger container and moving the plant away from a lot of heat, sun, or draft.

Double potting (a pot inside another container) can be beneficial for outside plants. This will lessen heat and water evaporation stress on roots, and plants may need less care.

It can be typical for outside plants to need watering two to three times a week. This may improve with the above suggestions.

Occasionally foliage will need to be cleaned. There are several methods: (1) A feather duster works remarkably well on dust that has not sat for too long. Be careful not to transfer any possible pests to another plant; (2) On glossy leaves leaf polish misted on the surface and wiped off with a soft cloth or man's sock (turned inside out) will produce a beautiful shine; (3) Hosing down the foliage or misting with warm water works wonders once in a while. Do not leave a plant in the direct sun to dry.

LOCATION and EXPOSURE

Not many plants grow in caves. Many foliage house plants, especially the green leafy ones, naturally thrive in the dappled-light undergrowth of trees and shrubs in their native habitat. Dark green foliage plants do better (compared to others) in low light areas because the leaves have more chlorophyll to absorb the available light. Highly colored foliage and especially flowering plants are best in bright or sunlit areas. However, delicate or "florist" flower pots won't tolerate strong sun, heat, or drafts. Such adverse conditions shorten the flowers' life.

Generally, if there is enough light to read comfortably without the need to turn on any lights that area is suitable for a plant. Plants can be in areas of entirely artificial lighting, provided light is on for at least six or more hours, five days a week. Too low light will cause the plant to stretch out and grow leggy. Very low light and the plant will atrophy, just exist, probably not grow at all, and be doomed to a slow starvation from the lack of food it must manufacture for itself with light.

It is normal for plants to go through an adjustment period of maybe a month or two when they are brought from a supplier or moved to a new area. Ficus trees, for instance, are notorious for this. They may drop leaves or yellow out. This is tolerable as long as it is only some of the older leaves, usually the lowest leaves on the stem, if the new growth ends are still healthy and growing normally.

Beware! Plants are much like people; they can easily sunburn if not used to direct sunlight. The damage to plant tissues is permanent, at least until new growth comes out. If you know it has been in a shady area, when you move it to a sunnier area, gradually get the plant accustomed to light in small doses. Put it in a filtered sun area for two weeks before any stronger sun. A plant not acclimated to direct sun can burn in just thirty minutes!

CONTAINERS

Containers offer vast decorative and functional possibilities: plastic, wood, clay, concrete, glass, ceramic, wire/moss, etc. They can be hung from walls or ceiling or be placed on shelving or ornamental stands. Be imaginative!

Lining any porous containers with plastic can greatly reduce the amount of water being lost by sweating or seeping from the pot. Make generous holes in the bottom or sides of a plastic lining for air and drainage. Lining

porous containers also will reduce the fertilizer, mineral, and salt damage to the outside surfaces.

With house plants, use a saucer inside the outer container to hold excess water. Even ceramic pots without drainage holes can sweat and ruin furnishings underneath.

To reduce drying, the top of the soil and the edge of the container can be camouflaged with toppings of Spanish (grey) or green moss, rock, bark, sand, marbles, shells, etc.

SOIL

Be aware that potted plants typically like special mixtures. Many potted plants won't do well in plain dirt or topsoil. Neither will most plants do well in a mixture that has too much bark or wood mulch in it. (Orchids and bromeliads are exceptions.) Many good, bagged, potting soils are available. Good drainage is the key. Cactus and succulents need more than most other plants. Ask your horticulturist or nurseryman which kind is best for your particular needs.

POLYMERS (small and gelatine like)

Polymers swell up to hold water and release it slowly. They may be of help for plants that dry out frequently or must stay in small containers. Use sparingly, follow instructions.

DISEASES/INSECTS/PESTS

There exist many to confront. For starters, a healthy plant is the best defense. With good soil, adequate drainage, air circulation, regular watering, fertilizing, and cleaning you will have marvelously healthy specimen.

Try not to leave foliage wet a night. This way there is less chance for fungus to breed and snails won't have an advantageous wet playground at night. It is best to water (or spray down foliage) morning through afternoon.

Some of the common pests are:

Spider mites — white or red, smaller than a speck of salt, usually under the foliage. They make minute webbing close to the leaf and suck chlorophyll, leaving yellow stippling as a sign they're here.

Aphids — about pinhead size, some with wings, normally only on new tender growth.

Mealybugs — resemble white, cottony, small sow bugs. They hide at plant joints and crevasses (sometimes in the soil).

Scale — roughly pinhead size (variable) with an oval, hardened, shell-like covering to protect them. Adults attach permanently to one spot.

Soil gnats — adults are aphid size and usually make themselves known annoyingly by dancing in your face. It's the young larvae that feed in moist soil on your plant's roots.

When you have a problem you cannot identify, take a sample of the plant to a knowledgeable horticulturist. (Take it in a plastic bag so you will not infect other plants.)

These days we are fortunate that there are usually two ways to combat plant problems:

(1) Natural and biological controls: predatory (beneficial) insects and bacteria that seek out pesky bugs. (I include highly refined oils in this category because they are not carcinogenic.)

(2) Harsh chemicals: ("nuke 'em") for severe cases.

The #1 choices are becoming increasingly more available and are better for the environment and the planet. Always be careful to follow directions for use!

CHEMICAL FERTILIZERS — N-P-K

Nitrogen, phosphorous, potassium (potash) are the main elements that plants require. On any chemical fertilizer package you will see numbers separated by a hyphen (-), for example Miracle-Gro is 15-30-15. These numbers represent the actual percentages of fertilizer in the package. The first number is nitrogen. It is for plant growth. The second is phosphorous. It is for flower and fruit production. The third is potassium. It is for roots and strength. This is a very basic explanation. All of these elements help all parts of the plant yet they do target some specific functions more than others.

House plants benefit from liquid food at least once every month. Never give house plants regular granular (pelletized) garden fertilizer. This could easily burn them Outside plants in small pots and delicate plants like fern, impatiens, etc. should only be fed with liquid food or slow release, non-burning granular food meant specifically for them. Larger outside pots and hardier plants can be fertilized with granular fertilizers, used sparingly.

As far as lasting nutrition goes: liquid fertilizer may last about a week or two. Most are absorbed fast. Granular fertilizer can last three to four months, released gradually each watering. Always make sure the soil is damp before fertilizing, especially with granular fertilizer, or severe damage or death can occur.

Trace minerals in the fertilizer and soil play key secondary roles, just as they do in humans. Look for them in good quality fertilizers. Lack of these minor nutrients can cause leaf discoloration (yellowing or marbling), poor plant growth, and degenerative plant functions. Some of the important trace minerals are: calcium, magnesium, sulfur, iron, zinc, and manganese. Always be careful to follow directions for use!

PLANTS

There are too many to list. It can be stimulating to just shop around, talk to people, and experiment. Many considered house plants, not surprisingly, perform well in the outside gardens of our mild climate.□

KOBY W. HALL is a hoticulturist who does design, artistic/detail, and maintenance work. This article is taken from one of his lectures.

Gleanings . . .

SDFA IS 87 . . .

Many of our new readers do not realize that California Garden has been written and published for 85 years. The Floral Association was started 87 (1907) years ago to help San Diegans grow plants in this climate and soil that is very different from most of the United States (and the rest of the World). After two years, it became apparent that people needed written help, and the magazine was started in July 1909. Since the beginning all of the writers, photographers, and helpers have been knowledgeable volunteers who give their time to help make the San Diego area a nicer place to live. We are the oldest horticulture magazine in the USA in continuous publication and we are still owned by San Diego Floral Association and done by concerned, knowledgeable, and hard-working volunteers.

The staff felt that our readers might enjoy reading a few of the older articles published in the magazine. The material is still valuable. At first the emphasis was on plants for landscaping — the soil, time, choice, care — but soon there was interest in drought-resistant plants, fruits, and vegetables.

AHB'S AREN'T ALL BAD . . .

Of course, no one knows what will happen if and when the Africanized honeybees get to California. In Brazil, where the bees escaped, panic gripped beekeepers. Honey production fell from 6,500 tons in 1957 to 4,120 tons in 1974. Now that beekeepers have learned to handle the bees, the 1993 honey production grew to 40,000 tons. This makes them the world's seventh-largest producer, and the third-largest in Latin America behind Mexico and Argentina. Apiculturist say that AHB's are faster and more efficient pollinators and collectors of nectar, so they produce more honey than the European honeybee. One commercial honey producer says that his AHB hives produce 138 pounds of honey per hive per year. This is three times the output of the European bees. At a recent apiculture fair in southern Brazil, a AHB queen bee was auctioned at $400. Honeybee queens normally sell commercially for about $7. Apiculturists are now trying to develop a "kinder" bee — not so aggressive — that still is able to keep up honey production.

MINI GREENHOUSE . . .

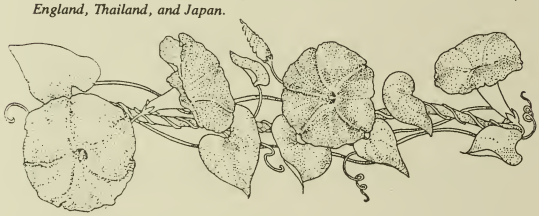
If you haven't already started doing it, those quart-size, plastic, soft drink bottles make a marvelous mini greenhouse for individual plants (with the bottom cut off, of course).

("Far from the Madding Crowd," continued from page 104.)

less attractive characteristics: eating seedlings and denuding most fruit trees of their long-awaited crops.

A final stratagem is hanging up one (or even several) wind chimes. These can range from the other-worldly tinkle of glass or shell chimes, to the more sonorous, quasi-monastic sound of metal chimes — particularly the tubular ones known as Woodstock chimes. Once again, be sure that the cure isn't worse than the disease. If you're not emotionally in tune with the sound of the particular wind chime you choose, you could find it a greater irritation than the noise you've been trying to mask. If none of the above appeals to you, there is always the most effective and least expensive noise cover of all: earplugs.□

FREDRIK LILJEBLAD has been a professional writer for over twenty years. He is the author of numerous textbooks on language learning and cookery. He also teaches classes in cuisines such as Chinese, Thai, Indian, Korean, etc., call 497-1545, if interested. He has gardened in climates as diverse as Sweden, England, Thailand, and Japan.



("California Sycamore", continued from page 105.)

sidewalks. Although it is drought tolerate when once established, it enjoys deep summer watering, and does best in deep, moist not wet soil. The sycamore provides nice summer shade, and birds enjoy nesting in its branches. It thrives in full sun and loves hot, dry weather which keeps the anthracnose in check. It survives in adverse conditions, stoically adapting to many climates and soil types. It tolerates our alkaline western soil and takes cold down to 10°. It transplants easily and can sprout back from the stump. It withstands some wind, but its brittle branches will snap in extremely gusty areas. Although this tree may be pruned into many shapes, it is most enchanting when left to its natural picturesque habit.

If you have a large back yard and want to bring a little of the wild into it, the striking beauty and noble character of the California sycamore outweigh its drawbacks. Maybe you would like to adopt this tough, handsome Appaloosa of the plant kingdom. It tames beautifully!□

Book Reviews

ORCHIDS OF BRAZIL

Jim and Barbara McQueen

Portland, Timber Press, 1993, 208 pages, 324 color photos, 5 b&w maps and illustrations, 7" x 9½", softcover, $24.95

It seems to me that Jim and Barbara McQueen have come up with a fine little book that is concise and a very good source of information. Brazil is the home of more than 3000 orchid species, and they are discovering more every day.

The first thirty-seven pages are devoted to a brief history and account of Brazilian geography, climate, orchid conservation, the growing of Brazilian species, and the classification of Brazilian orchids. This is all written in everyday terminology. One does not have to be a taxonomist to understand what the authors are trying to tell us.

The book is printed on fine quality paper. The cover is appropriate, in that it is done in a rich purple color with a fine photo of *Laelia purpurata* var. *werkhauseri*. *L. purpurata* is the national flower of Brazil. It has been discovered in many lovely colors and is one of the largest of the flowers found in Brazil.

The authors give many fine culture tips on the growing of 314 different species that are included in this wonderful little book. The color plates used to describe each species are very fine. Many of these orchids are grown in San Diego County, and many can be grown outdoors in our area.

Reviewed by Ardell O. Marlin

THE NATIONAL GARDENING ASSOCIATION DICTIONARY OF HORTICULTURE

Jack Ruttle, Executive Editor

New York, Viking Penguin Books, 1994, 830 pages, 1500+ b&w line drawings, 7½" x 9¼", hardcover, $29.95

At last, a gardening dictionary that follows the tradition of the language dictionary and includes guides for Latin pronunciation! This single aspect distinguishes and provides a clue to the thoughtfulness, thoroughness, and accessibility of the contents of the new *Dictionary of Horticulture*.

Gardeners who are intimidated by scholarly works like *Hortus* finally have a user friendly reference that gives them information on plants and gardening in plain English. Plants are defined and described using both common and botanical names, including over 15,000 entries and 5,000 cross-references. The "Common Name Index" at the back helps gardeners to reference plants quickly. Gardening terms include everything from tools to insects to chemicals. To benefit all users, the editors have taken pains to research common names as they are used and differ regionally, including British common names.

In testing its thoroughness we were able to exceed its limits, as will be the case with other plant enthusiasts and specialists, but as a general reference source it is excellent. Surely, this is the first edition of a reference tool that will be updated and revised periodically. Meanwhile, I strongly recommend that you add it to your plant reference shelf. It is a bargain and by the time there is an update it will be so worn from constant use that you will need a new one.

Reviewed by Lucy Warren

CALIFORNIA'S CHANGING LANDSCAPES

Michael Barbour, Bruce Pavlick, Frank Drysdale, and Susan Lindstrom

Sacramento, California Native Plant Society, 1993, 256 pages, 29 color photos, 106 b&w photos, 33 maps, 7½" x 9¼", softcover, $24.95

Ten years of research by four authors are accumulated in this book. It basically refers to the increased demands on the landscape relative to the increase in the state's population. It discusses the relationship between different cultures and their affect on the vegetation and landscape. Vegetation in past years is compared to that found in the state now. The diversity and change of California vegetation is studied in coastal, interior valley, forest, mountain and rainshadow to the desert areas.

One chapter summarizes the cultural diversity of native peoples of California over a 12,000 year period. Information is given on plant uses for food, medical needs, structures, and ceremonial activities, and on how the decline of indigenous cultures was tied to the decline of pristine vegetation. The hunter-gatherer life style required the ability to move with seasonal changes in order to provide a dependable sequence of habitats.

Considerable research has been done on environmental degradation in the chapter on restoring California biological diversity. The authors suggest three possibilities for the future of California plant cover.

1. Development with conservation and enhancement.
2. Development with conservation.
3. Development.

The uncertain future of California landscapes is discussed with a desire to compare what we have now with what was prominent in the past. The authors hope to stimulate their readers to participate in the enhancement of protecting the remaining natural vegetation of California. The book is well organized, shows considerable research and is interesting reading.

Reviewed by Dorcas Utter

PROTEAS OF THE WORLD
Lewis Matthews
Portland, Timber Press, 1993, 256 pages, 120 paintings, 9½" x 13¼", hardcover, $45.00

This is the first major international book on proteas and covers more than 130 species, including all the major ornamentals and hybrids. The book includes the Proteaceae of Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, South America, and other countries. There is also a section on the cultivation of these magnificent plants, which grow very successfully in San Diego County both commercially and in private gardens.

The author, Lewis Matthews, and artist, Zoe Carter, teamed up in 1983 on the book entitled *South African Proteaceae in New Zealand*, and many of her beautiful paintings are included in the new book. In fact, the cover illustration is the same on both volumes. Ms. Carter's full-page paintings are a delight and one reason this book is a "must" for a book collection.

This is a superb book for any reader who wishes to learn more about the protea family. Although there are many species in South Africa and Australia, of particular interest are the numerous species in South America, and the large number in New Caledonia and nearby countries (even China). As the book points out, new species are being discovered continually and have yet to be named or fully described. For a person who wishes to start a protea collection, *Proteas of the World*, would be a good beginning. It is difficult to find a book on proteas as many are out of print currently.

Reviewed by Jean Nikodym

DELPHINIUMS David Bassett, 1992
LILIES Derek Fox, 1993
PELARGONIUMS Hazel Key, 1993
London, Wisley Handbooks, Dist. by Sterling Publ., 64 pages, full color, 5½" x 8½", softcover, $5.95

These three books are part of the Royal Horticultural Society's series called Wisley Handbooks. Like the other titles on this list, this group displays a consistently high standard of book production. Each author is a recognized expert in their subject, and all of them write well. Information is detailed and efficiently organized and the color photography is excellent. Because these books are published in the Britain all the names and addresses quoted are in the British Isles and therefore a far-distant resource, but Derek Fox's *Lilies* contains a long reading list, and some of these books are obtainable here. David Bassett says that delphinium seeds are readily obtainable in the U.S. (no address given) and Hazel Key mentions work done on crossbreeding in California (page 52). These are small books, only sixty-four pages each, but at $5.95 each they are a bargain. Anyone wanting a gardening encyclopedia might well consider instead making a balanced selection from the more than sixty titles in this series.

Reviewed by Elsie Topham

ROSE GARDENING BY COLOR
Patricia DeRubertis
Thousand Oaks, Ca., DeRubertis & Assoc., 1993, 213 pages, 8½" x 11", softcover, $24.95

This spiral bound listing of rose varieties by color (no pictures!) will be greeted with enthusiasm by all who have searched in vain for a particular variety.

Nine chapters of alphabetical listing of roses are divided into Modern Roses and Old Garden Roses by color classification. Some entries include average heights.

This publication is made exceptional because each variety shows at least one mail source in the U.S. and Chapter 12 contains an address, phone, and fax number of over sixty mail order sources. It is certainly a fine supplement to the numerous rose books and catalogs devoted primarily to color photos.

Reviewed by Marianne D. Truby

ALLIUMS; THE BOOK OF ORNAMENTAL ONIONS
Dilys Davies
Portland, Timber Press, 1993, 168 pages, 48 color photos, 45 b&w line drawings, 6¼" x 9¼", softcover, $22.95

This is a wide coverage of a relatively narrow subject. The author has researched her topic very thoroughly and the information she provides is efficiently organized. Many gardeners pay scant attention to alliums, so this book is a welcome guide, especially so because these plants have multiple uses.

Dilys Davies is clearly a personality, and her book is crafted with wit. Along with practical and comprehensive advice on cultivation she gives an A-Z list of about 200 species, illustrated with excellent color photos and many line drawings. Botanical descriptions are included. The section on "Alliums in the Garden" is particularly useful and is likely to generate enthusiasm among gardeners who like to experiment. The author does not neglect the culinary, medicinal, and folkloric uses of these plants and she gives some interesting recipes, including one for vodka with garlic (page 28). Of extra interest are the pages dealing with the alliums in history.

The author has traveled widely, and she is no stranger to the U.S. but the book is British in origin, and in her not-to-be-missed introduction she makes it clear that her own growing experience has been in a cold, wet climate. But alliums are hardy and they like sun; and as these photographs demonstrate they are attractive ornamentals and welcomed by flower arrangers. This is a book that should be in every garden library.

Reviewed by Elsie Topham

ENERGY-EFFICIENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL LANDSCAPING

Anne Simon Moffat, Marc Schiler

South Newfane, Vt., Appropriate Solutions Press, 1993, 240 pages, many b&w illustrations, 8½" x 11", softcover, $17.95

This useful book is likely to be well-thumbed and often consulted. A sturdier binding and handier size would have been beneficial. A wealth of scientific data is presented in an easy style, and statistics are plentiful and persuasive. We are told that one mature tree equals four 10000 BTU air conditioners and viable economies are often expressed in dollar terms.

A look at the six page bibliography indicates wide ranging research and although illustrations are only in black and white they are lively and informative. Maps, plans, and charts are effectively interpolated. Appendices E, "Tree Densities" and F, "Plants According to Size and Form" are of particular interest. Lists of plant suggestions are also included.

The section on energy-efficient landscaping is divided according to four different types of climates. Section 2 discusses other considerations, including water-efficient landscaping, pest management, natural lawn care (recommending two ways to beat crab grass), and landscaping for wild life. These two sections provide a thorough preparation for the last section, called "Putting It All Together."

Students and professionals will find this book an essential tool, and it can help homeowners achieve real economies, not to mention property improvements. Also recommended for inclusion in collections of gardening books in libraries.

Reviewed by Elsie M. Topham

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